



*"Providing the most basic of human needs... food, shelter & hope"*

FISH • Friends In Service to Humanity of Northwestern Connecticut, Inc.

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Testimony for the Appropriations Hearing/Department of Housing/February 17, 2017

Senator Osten, Senator Formica, Representative Walker,

Representative Ziobron and Members of the Committee.

My name is Bytha Reichler and I was homeless before I entered the FISH Homeless Shelter. I have many medical issues and it was life threatening for me out in the elements of the winter season. I am thankful and grateful to have food and a bed to sleep in and to be able to work on my artist ability while getting my life back on track.

Shelter support is very important and vulnerable to so many people when facing homelessness. As painting is my passion, I was chosen artist of the month at the Charlotte Hungerford hospital in October 2016 and hope in continuing exposure with my photography until I'm fully recognized. I don't want to live at a poverty level all my life and have much ambition with pursuits of making the shelter a temporary place of residence.

I am grateful for any funding that allows a place of refuge and I can make a difference while I'm here at the FISH Homeless Shelter. Please realize a shelter like FISH not only gives to the community but can also help change people's lives by providing a safe secure environment and helping reach goals.

Please continue to support the services that FISH offers to the homeless people in ours and other communities.

Sincerely,

FISH Shelter Resident